

Message Text

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ORIGIN NSF-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-05 ABF-01 FSE-00 AGR-10

HEW-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /038 R

DRAFTED BY NSF/OIP:CZALAR:DBU
APPROVED BY OES/APT/SEP:WAROOT
OES/APT/SEP:WFDECLERCQ
EUR/EE:TDEAL

----- 081334

R 290221Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY WARSAW

UNCLAS STATE 022205

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:OSCI, TGEN, PL

SUBJECT: NSF/SFCP - SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

REF: WARSAW 308

1. DURING HIS JUNE AND OCTOBER 1975 VISITS TO PAN, ZALAR REPEATEDLY STRESSED TO JAN PETRUS NEED FOR NSF TO RECEIVE PROPOSALS BY THE END OF 1975. HE DOES NOT RECALL MENTIONING ANY MARCH 1976 DEADLINE. ZALAR ALSO EXPLAINED TO PETRUS REASON FOR URGENCY, NAMELY, NEED TO OBLIGATE BY DECEMBER 31, 1976, TIME REQUIRED FOR NSF PEER REVIEW, AND DIFFICULTY TO FIND REVIEWERS IN SUMMER.

2. ON NOVEMBER 12, 1975, POLISH AMBASSADOR TRAMPCZYNSKI AND SCIENTIFIC COUNSELOR CZULNO CALLED ON DR. STEVER, NSF DIRECTOR AND PRESIDENTIAL SCIENCE ADVISER. NSF GAVE CZULNO DETAILS CONCERNING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NEEDED FROM POLISH SIDE TO SUPPORT POLISH PROPOSALS AND AMBASSADOR OFFERED TO ASSIST DURING HIS FORTHCOMING HOME VISIT. NOTHING SEEMS TO HAVE HAPPENED AS RESULT OF AMBASSADOR'S
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EFFORTS.

3. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO RAISE WITH POLICY LEVELS, E.G. AT (PAN), MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND MINISTRY FOR

SCIENCE, HIGHER EDUCATION, AND TECHNOLOGY, GRAVE U.S. CONCERN AT DELAYS IN RECEIPT OF VIABLE PROPOSALS AND REVISIONS TO PERMIT OBLIGATION BY NSF OF FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR COOPERATIVE PROJECTS, DRAWING ON ALL OR PART OF THE FOLLOWING:

A) THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (NSF) NOW HAS 1,975,000 DOLLAR EQUIVALENT FOR SUPPORT OF SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION WITH POLAND. THE ENTIRE AMOUNT MUST BE OBLIGATED BEFORE THE END OF 1976 OR BE LOST. TO DATE, NSF HAS BEEN ABLE TO OBLIGATE \$288,000.

B) TO OBLIGATE FUNDS, NSF MUST RECEIVE POSITIVE RECOMMENDATION FROM AT LEAST SIX EXPERTS IN THE FIELD. PROPOSALS AS FIRST RECEIVED ARE OFTEN TOO BRIEF TO PERMIT PROPER EVALUATION, ALTHOUGH THE GENERAL IDEA MAY BE GOOD. THE PEER REVIEW OF FOREIGN PROPOSALS OFTEN TAKES MORE THAN SIX MONTHS. DURING SUMMER TIME (JUNE-SEPTEMBER) ACADEMIC REVIEWERS ARE BUSY WITH THE END AND BEGINNING OF ACADEMIC YEARS AND/OR AWAY FROM THEIR INSTITUTIONS. REVIEWERS ARE NOT PAID FOR THEIR SERVICES SO NSF HAS NO INDUCEMENT TO SPEED-UP TURN-AROUND TIME. NSF MUST THEREFORE START THE REVIEW PROCESS FAR IN ADVANCE OF THE FINAL DECISION.

C) NOT ALL PROPOSALS RECEIVED IN NSF ARE APPROPRIATE FOR FUNDING. THEREFORE, TOTAL AMOUNT OF SUPPORT REQUESTED IN PROPOSALS SHOULD EXCEED THE REMAINING AVAILABLE FUNDS (\$1,687,000).

D) AT PRESENT, NSF HAS IN HAND 10 FORMAL PROPOSALS, AMOUNTING TO APPROXIMATELY ONE MILLION DOLLARS. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS NEEDED FOR ALMOST ALL OF THESE PROPOSALS: E.G., MORE SUBSTANTIVE DESCRIPTION, MORE BUDGETARY DETAILS, SIGNATURES.

E) NUMEROUS NSF REQUESTS THROUGH EMBASSY AND PAN FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NEEDED HAVE EITHER BEEN ANSWERED ONLY AFTER MANY MONTHS OR NOT AT ALL. FOR INSTANCE, IN MID-OCTOBER NSF REQUESTED REVISED BUDGETS FOR TWO PROPOSALS (Z.MROZ, PAN, AND J. JANIK, INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR PHYSICS, KRAKOW) BUT, DESPITE TWO FOLLOW-UP TELEGRAMS, REVISED BUDGETS NOT YET RECEIVED.

F) DURING JUNE AND OCTOBER VISITS TO POLAND, NSF REPRESENTATIVE

SENTATIVE REVIEWED ABOUT TWO DOZEN PROPOSALS WITH POTENTIAL PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS AND THE POLISH PL-480 COORDINATOR IN PAN. MOST OF THESE PROPOSALS WERE ALREADY IN PAN AWAITING ITS APPROVAL AND TRANSMITTAL TO AMEMBASSY. ONLY THREE OF THESE PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN

RECENTLY RECEIVED. IN JUNE 1975, PROFESSOR ZELAZNI, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR RESEARCH, SWIERK, TOLD NSF REPRESENTATIVE THAT HE HAD SUBMITTED TO PAN FIVE OR SIX PROPOSALS AND THAT HE WOULD SUBMIT SIX MORE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. IN OCTOBER 1975, PL-480 COORDINATOR IN PAN CONFIRMED THAT INDEED THERE WERE IN PAN ABOUT A DOZEN PROPOSALS FROM SWIERK. TO DATE NONE HAS BEEN RECEIVED IN NSF.

G) ARTICLE VI OF THE SEPTEMBER 20, 1973 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN NSF AND PAN STIPULATES THAT PAN QUOTE SHALL FACILITATE THE CONDUCT OF THIS PROGRAM BETWEEN THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION AND POLISH SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS. UNQUOTE IT IS HOPED THAT PAN WILL BE ABLE TO EXPEDITE RESPONSES FROM POLISH INVESTIGATORS TO QUESTIONS FROM THEIR U.S. COUNTERPARTS. SEVERAL U.S. SCIENTISTS ARE NO LONGER INTERESTED IN U.S.-POLISH SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION BECAUSE OF LACK OF POLISH RESPONSES. WE WISH TO REVERSE THIS TREND.

H) US APPRECIATES RECENT POLISH ASSURANCES THAT SOME RESPONSES WILL BE FORTHCOMING SOON. HOWEVER, WE CANNOT OVERSTRESS IMPORTANCE OF PROMPT RESPONSES TO ALL OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE022205
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: CZALAR:DBU
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760034-0404
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976018/aaaaagrrel
Line Count: 145
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NSF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 WARSAW 308
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hattaycs
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUL 2004 by schwenja>; APPROVED <26 JUL 2004 by hattaycs>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NSF/SFCP - SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS
TAGS: OSCI, TGEN, PL
To: WARSAW
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006